



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

J.R. Gray, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Ricki Gardenhire
502-564-5525**

Labor Cabinet, Denark Construction, ECU enter safety partnership for science building project *Designed to reduce accidents, injuries among construction workers*

FRANKFORT, KY (May 19, 2009) – A new science building on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond is being built under a construction safety partnership between the university, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet and Denark Construction Inc.

The Construction Partnership Program is a voluntary agreement in which safety and health experts from the Kentucky Office of Occupational Safety and Health (KOSH), Division of Education and Training make quarterly, consultative visits to the building site to provide extensive safety and health surveys.

Labor Cabinet Secretary J.R. Gray, who today signed the agreement with ECU and Denark officials, said construction partnerships have positive impacts on reducing injuries and implementing safety programs. "Construction partnerships have numerous goals, strategies and measurable results that benefit workers. In fact, employee involvement is a requirement.

"Partners, including the general contractor and subcontractors that want to participate, work to identify training needs and inadequacies in their written safety programs and to identify on-the-job hazards," added Gray.

Education and training on Kentucky OSH standards are provided when applicable. This continuous engagement between labor and the company eliminates the need for random compliance inspections as long as state requirements are being met. Regular safety meetings also are conducted onsite.

The 175,000 square foot building will be completed in February 2011 with an estimated price tag of \$64 million. The new facility will be located off Kit Carson Drive, just north of ECU's health sciences complex comprised of the Rowlett and Ditzner buildings. Currently, science classes are split between several campus buildings.

Denmark Construction, in business since 1985, was named nationally as the "best of the best" in construction safety excellence by the Associated General Contractors of America in 2003.

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